

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of January 7, 2010 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-27 and 35 are canceled. Claims 28-34 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Preliminarily, applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 28-34 have been allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §/103

Claims 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leyendecker in view of Ali et al. ("Ali"). Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorpe.

Claims 21-27 and 35 have been canceled rendering these rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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